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SUBJECT: 31ST UNGA: ITEM 25: OMNIBUS RESOLUTION ON
DECOLONIZATION AND RESOLUTION ON DISSEMINATION OF INFORMA-
TION ON DECOLONIZATION

REF: USUN 1492

1. DEPARTMENT CONCURS WITH RECOMMENDATIONS IN REFTTEL
CONCERNING VOTING POSTURE ON OMNIBUS RESOLUTION ON
DECOLONIZATION AND RESOLUTION ON DISSEMINATION OF
INFORMATION. WE ALSO CONCUR WITH RECOMMENDATIONS
REGARDING RESTRICTED LOBBYING EFFORT. USUN SHOULD VOTE
AGAINST OMNIBUS RESOLUTION AND ABSTAIN ON RESOLUTION ON
DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION. LOBBYING SHOULD BE
RESTRICTED TO LOW KEY EFFORTS AMONG OUR ALLIES.

2. EXPLANATION OF VOTE ON OMNIBUS DECOLONIZATION
RESOLUTION SHOULD INCLUDE FOLLOWING POINTS:
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-- US VIEWS ON SOME ASPECTS OF THE RESOLUTION HAVE BEEN EXPRESSED BOTH IN COMMITTEE AND IN PLENARY. THERE IS NO NEED TO REPEAT THEM NOW. TWO ADDITIONAL POINTS WHICH DO REQUIRE COMMENT, HOWEVER, ARE THE COMMITTEE OF 24 DISCUSSION OF PUERTO RICO AND THE COMMITTEE'S DISCUSSION

OF THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS.

-- CHAPTER 1 OF THE COMMITTEE OF 24 REPORT CONTAINS A REFERENCE TO DISCUSSION OF PUERTO RICO, INCLUDING A DECISION TO TAKE UP THE QUESTION AGAIN IN 1977.

-- PUERTO RICO IS NOT A MATTER WHICH FALLS WITHIN THE PURVIEW OF THE COMMITTEE OF 24. THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO ARE SELF-GOVERNING. THIS WAS RECOGNIZED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN 1953 WHEN IT APPROVED RESOLUTION 748 (VIII) AND WHEN IT VOTED NOT TO INSCRIBE PUERTO RICO ON ITS AGENDA IN 1971.

-- THE POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES WITH REGARD TO PUERTO RICO IS BASED ON FULL ACCEPTANCE OF THE PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION. WE STATED BEFORE THIS BODY IN 1953 THAT IF THE LEGISLATURE OF PUERTO RICO SHOULD ADOPT A RESOLUTION IN FAVOR OF INDEPENDENCE THEN THE PRESIDENT WOULD RECOMMEND TO THE CONGRESS THAT INDEPENDENCE BE GRANTED. THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS THAT IN THE EXERCISE OF THEIR RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO HAVE OPPOSED INDEPENDENCE FOR PUERTO RICO AND HAVE SELECTED A COMMONWEALTH RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES. THIS CHOICE, WHICH WAS MADE IN 1952, WAS RE-AFFIRMED IN A 1967 STATUS REFERENDUM. THE ELECTION HELD ON NOVEMBER 2 OF THIS YEAR PROVIDES FURTHER EVIDENCE AS TO THE WISHES OF THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO. ALTHOUGH PRO-INDEPENDENCE PARTIES CAMPAIGNED OPENLY AND FREELY, THEY GAINED THE SUPPORT OF ONLY 6 PERCENT OF THE ELECTORATE.

-- IN VIEW OF THESE FACTS, DISCUSSION OF PUERTO RICO BY THE COMMITTEE OF 24 IS AN UNWARRANTED INTERFERENCE INTO THE AFFAIRS OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RICO.

-- CONCERNING THE COMMITTEE'S DISCUSSION OF THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS, I WISH TO POINT OUT THAT UNDER THE TERMS OF THE CHARTER ALL FUNCTIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS RELATING TO TRUST TERRITORIES DESIGNATED AS STRATEGIC TRUSTS SHALL BE EXERCISED BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL. THE SECURITY COUNCIL HAS DELEGATED TO THE

TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL THE AUTHORITY TO CONSIDER THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS ON BEHALF OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL. FOR THESE REASONS THE UNITED STATES CONSIDERS INAPPROPRIATE ANY CONSIDERATION OF THE MATTER BY THE COMMITTEE OF 24 AND DOES NOT PARTICIPATE IN COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION OF THE QUESTION.

3. EXPLANATION OF VOTE ON RESOLUTION CONCERNING DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ON DECOLONIZATION SHOULD INCLUDE FOLLOWING POINT:

-- THE UNITED STATES SUPPORTS THE DISSEMINATION OF OBJECTIVE INFORMATION ON DECOLONIZATION, PARTICULARLY IN THE NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES, BUT WE ARE ABSTAINING ON THE RESOLUTION BECAUSE OF OUR RESERVATIONS CONCERNING THE COMMITTEE OF 24 LANGUAGE CALLING FOR GREATER PUBLICITY TO SUCH ITEMS AS THE ROLE OF FOREIGN ECONOMIC AND OTHER INTERESTS IN THE NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES AND THE ROLE OF "MILITARY ACTIVITIES OF THE COLONIAL POWERS WHICH ARE IMPEDING THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION" ON DECOLONIZATION.

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